



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SELECT PINK SALMON FISHERY FOR CONCENTRATED RESEARCH

The pink salmon fishery of southeastern Alaska, worth about \$44 million currently, has been selected by the Fish and Wildlife Service to receive the bulk of attention from a realigned Alaskan fishery research program, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

In a report to Secretary Chapman, Albert M. Day, Service director, stated that after an extensive review of fishery research activities in the Territory, it has been decided to concentrate its funds, personnel, and physical facilities on pink salmon in order to make faster progress toward solving the specialized problems of the management and regulation of this particular Alaskan fishery.

"This does not mean," said Mr. Day, "that the Service is abandoning research on other Alaskan fisheries. Instead of spreading our fishery investigations too thinly over the complexities of the various fishery problems of Alaska, we are going to centralize our efforts at this time on the pink salmon of southeastern Alaska until we get that fishery lined up. After that we will take up another species, using the same concentration technique."

The Service has operated four major fishery investigations in Alaska in late years; that of red salmon in Bristol Bay, the red salmon of Karluk River, on Kodiak Island, the pink salmon of Southeastern Alaska, and the Alaska herring. Routine observations of the size of escapement will be continued in Bristol Bay and on the Karluk River, and routine sampling of the herring catch will continue, even though the Service will concentrate its efforts on the one fishery in Southeastern Alaska. The routine samplings will provide all the necessary information for the planning of fishing regulations, and will provide the continuing records necessary when these fisheries become the object of future study and research.

The 44 million dollars a year industry represented by the pink salmon fishery has recently received only \$39,000 a year for research, permitting the employment of only one full-time biologist and a staff of temporary assistants. By concentrating its efforts, the Service now plans to invest three times as much money and place 10 professional biologists in the pink salmon research program.

The expanded program will have four major lines of investigation: data on the spawning and fresh water survival rate of pink salmon, the facts on ocean survival and homing, study of identity of races, and the gathering of detailed information on the relationship between gear operated and fishing intensity.

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